

for claim 69 can be found at, i.e., pages 12-14 of the specification and Figure 4. Claim 62 has been amended to correct the language regarding the display of an image representing a list of "channels" receivable by the receiver, rather than a list of "programmes". Claims 1, 28, 46 and 54 have been amended as described in further detail below. It is believed that none of these amendments constitute new matter, and their entry is requested.

Claims 18-22 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. It is believed that the amendment to claim 18 obviates this rejection, and its withdrawal is requested.

Various claims were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) or §103. Applicants traverse these rejections for the reasons which follow.

Modem  
Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the receiver comprises a modem for establishing a telecommunications link, the receiver being responsive to viewer manipulation of an input device to vary the interactive image and to cause the modem to establish a telecommunications link to a remote site for on-line interaction via the interactive image between the viewer and the remote site. This amendment finds basis in previous claim 9 and at lines 6-8 of the description at page 6 of the specification.

It is submitted that amended claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Florin (WO 96/01058). Florin discloses an audio-visual transceiver 54 for receiving from a service provider 50 cable television or telephone services over a cable 52 (Fig. 2). The transceiver may also be used in conjunction with other electronic transmission systems such as satellite service systems. The electronic spectrum of signals provided by the service provider 50 includes at least one digital program listing channel, a plurality of back channels, standard analog TV channels, and additional definable digital channels offering a variety of interactive services. The back channels are used to engage in a variety of transactions, such as ordering products, pay-per-view movies, etc. In operation, any request by a user to view a pay-per-view movie or order a product is transmitted over at least one back channel to the service provider. In the first paragraph of page 31 of Florin, it is stated that the transceiver may comprise additional modules, such as a modem for exchanging digital data over telephone lines. However, Florin does not specify how the modem could be used in interactive services, and it clearly does not disclose or suggest the use of the modem in the way it is used in the receiver of claim 1. In fact, Florin sets out that the data exchange for the interactive

services is performed via the back channels of the signal spectrum provided by the service provider, as indicated above. This is in marked contrast to the receiver of claim 1, which causes a modem to establish a telecommunications link to a remote site for on-line interaction in response to viewed manipulation of an input device to vary an interactive image. By utilizing a telecommunications link instead of back channels, transmission bandwidth of the broadcast digital television signals is saved. As stated in the fourth paragraph on page 2 of the description, this is one of the problems of the prior art that the invention aims to overcome. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Florin.

Similar amendments have been made to independent claim 28 to reflect the above differences over Florin. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 28 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Florin. Accordingly, claim 28 and its dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the Florin reference.

Independent claim 46 has been amended to recite a second broadcast entry level for enabling a user to enter directly a predetermined one of a first, second and third broadcast levels. This amendment finds basis in previous claim 54 and corresponds to entry screen 62 in Fig. 4. As explained in the paragraph spanning pages 21-22 of the description, the second broadcast entry level, by enabling user to directly enter a predetermined one of the first, second and third broadcast levels (levels 63, 64 and 65 in Fig. 4), allows the service provider to vary the degree of interaction as required. Florin is completely silent as to this feature. Accordingly, claim 46 and its dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Florin.

With regard to independent claim 61, the Examiner has stated that page 6 and 7 of Florin anticipate the features of this claim. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is in error in this conclusion. Page 6 and 7 of Florin merely set out that the transceiver is capable of displaying a program listing of the current programs available for viewing. A viewer can scroll up and down the program listing or can view a highlighted program on full screen by pressing the "select" button. This function is described in more detail on pages 45 to 48 of Florin in connection with Figs. 12-17. As shown in these Figures, a picture-in-picture window 250 continues to display the currently viewed program which the user was last viewing. However, Florin does not disclose or suggest the feature of being responsive to user selection of a program from a displayed list of programs by

outputting signals defining an *image of the selected program in combination with the image of the list of the present programs*, as recited by claim 60. Therefore, claim 61 and its dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the Florin reference.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 62 and 63, as anticipated by Florin. Again, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is in error in his conclusion. Claim 62 recites the feature of a user-operable selector operable to select from a displayed list of channels receivable by the receiver channels for which no information will normally be displayable by the receiver. This feature is referred to as "Channel Lockout feature" in the specific description and is described at page 26, line 13 to page 27, line 27, in connection with Fig. 16. Florin neither discloses nor suggests this feature. Accordingly, claim 62 is believed to be patentable over the Florin reference.

With regard to claim 63, recited therein is the feature of a user operable selector operable to select the order in which channels are listed in a displayed list of receivable channels. This feature is listed in Figure 17 and the description thereof. Although Florin describes the display of a list of receivable channels, the reference neither discloses nor suggests the possibility of reorder such a list by user selection. Accordingly, claim 63 is believed to be patentable over Florin.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims satisfy the provisions of the patent statutes and are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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